

71-4802/A

22 SEP 1971

The Honorable Mike Mansfield
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator Mansfield:

This is in reply to your letter dated 15 September 1971, enclosing a copy of a letter to you from Mr. Gary R. Hettrick, a student at the University of Montana.

Unfortunately, we are not the best source of information on whether controls should be imposed on Government agencies gathering information about U.S. citizens. As you are aware, the statutory jurisdiction of this Agency is restricted to the foreign intelligence field, and we are specifically prohibited by statute from any internal security function. Accordingly, the whereabouts and activities of American citizens are normally outside our jurisdiction, and it would be inappropriate for us to make any effort to investigate an American citizen at home or abroad. If any significant intelligence information concerning American citizens came to our attention, it would be referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other appropriate departments and agencies having jurisdiction.

I am enclosing certain material concerning the origin of the Agency and its responsibilities which you may wish to forward to Mr. Hettrick for his better understanding of the Agency and its role in the national security.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms
Richard Helms
Director

Distribution:

Orig - Addse
1 - ER

This has been coordinated with
OGC.